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VIEWS ON ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGNS, DEA ACTIVITIES

De la Madrid: 'Progress Evident'

FL012258 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1819 GMT 1 Sep 86

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 1 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- The progress made in Mexico's fight against drug traffic is evident, President Miguel de la Madrid said as he noted that the activities being undertaken by the government are increasingly greater and proportionally superior to those of other countries.

De la Madrid said that in so doing the country fulfills its share in this bitter struggle in which the activities of drug trafficking are being financed and carried out by well organized international criminals.

Nevertheless, Mexico has been the target of diverse pressures from abroad because the actions we have been undertaking are not sufficiently efficient to combat these illegal activities. [passage omitted]

In this struggle, he said, the people are paying with their lives because, since "Operation Condor" began, the army has suffered 392 casualties. In 1985, 10 agents of the federal judicial police were killed, a sacrifice which constitutes an example of honesty and valor. [passage omitted]

The president announced that on 28 May of this year a federal law aimed at preventing and sanctioning torture had been enacted, an action which demonstrates the political and juridical will of rejecting practices that harm human dignity and offend society. [passage omitted]

De la Madrid said the office of the attorney general works in coordination with the federation's states, which is consistent with the requirements of fast and expeditious justice and with the policy of decentralization of national affairs.

He indicated that the Armed Forces guarantee domestic security and the defense of integrity, independence, and sovereignty of the nation so that development may be attained in different areas. [passage omitted] The Armed Forces continue developing their technology to avoid foreign dependence.

## Attorney General on Campaign

PA292216 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 29 Aug 86

[Text] Attorney General Sergio Garcia Ramirez said in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, today that the campaign against drug trafficking has yielded very positive results. He reported that 4 and 1/2 tons of drugs have been confiscated during the past 8 months. Such results had not been achieved in the past 10 years. He said that this illustrated the current administration's efforts against drug trafficking. He also said that the program against drug traffic and dependence being executed in the border zones is to be included in the campaign for the rest of the country. The program, in which the federal and municipal governments and the general public participate, aims at preventing Mexican youth from involvement with this social vice.

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Referring to the incident involving DEA agent Victor Cortez, Garcia Ramirez said that this event will not harm the good relations between Mexico and the United States because a respectful and valuable relationship exists. He said that in this struggle against drug trafficking, each agency will operate in its own territory and within its own responsibilities.

Garcia Ramirez was interviewed after a ceremony in which the attorney general's office delivered four aircraft to the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat's general customs directorate at the Monterrey airport.

'Pretext for Intervention'

PA292022 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 27 Aug 86 p 5

[Editorial: "Drug Traffic -- A Pretext for Interventionist Practices"]

[Text] For some time the drug traffic problem has gone from being the topic of newspaper headlines to becoming a national and foreign policy issue. Some of the reasons for this change are the increase in the drug use in the United States -- the main world market for these products -- and the proliferation of such illicit as well as profitable businesses in the United States and in several countries in Latin America -- as well as in the world in general -- which currently produce and export various drugs. The increase in the international traffic explains the international efforts to fight it.

The reason drug trafficking has become a political issue is that the U.S. circles of power want to use drug trafficking as a weapon of political pressure against the Latin American countries. In this way, they have gone beyond the bounds of police work, trying to justify their interventionist actions under the legal cover of halting the illegal traffic.

The meddling by U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency police agents in various Latin American countries, violating their national sovereignty, falls within that area. This type of action has been cause for scandal on two occasions. The first occurred with the death of agent Enrique Camarena a few months ago. Camarena's death was used as a pretext for the so-called interception action at the U.S. border. The second occurred in the last few days with agent Victor Cortez' charge that he was tortured by Mexican policemen in Jalisco State.

Independent of the police investigation into the treatment of any citizen of Mexico or of any other country, Mexicans view the intervention of foreign police agents in the national territory as inadmissible. From the legal standpoint, the Mexican Constitution, the country's highest law, explicitly establishes that the Attorney General's Office and the Judicial Police are in charge of pursuing crime in the national territory.

From the political viewpoint, President De la Madrid has clearly stated that Mexico can, on its own, act against the crimes committed within its territory and that it does not need any other country's help in fighting the drug trade.

The issue deserves an in-depth investigation because the Senate, which is responsible for reviewing international treaties, has reported there is no agreement with the United States that permits U.S. policemen to act in our territory. According to reports from abroad, the practice of granting diplomatic visas to such agents is an inherited one.

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Nevertheless, it is time for the matter to be investigated carefully. The public must be thoroughly informed. Any action which damages national sovereignty and which is carried out for interventionist reasons must end.

#### Sepulveda on DEA activities

FL012330 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2004 GMT 1 Sep 86

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 1 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- The administration of justice belongs solely and exclusively to the government, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda noted in response to a question on the activities of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. In an interview at the Palace of the Legislature, where he attended the Fourth Presidential Report, Sepulveda said the agreements with the United States on drug trafficking deal solely and exclusively with the exchange of information. He said the agreements exclude any type of police activities on the part of DEA agents. [passage omitted]

The foreign secretary said the President will clearly outline the government's internationalist theses in his address before the UN General Assembly on 24 September.

Sepulveda Amor announced that the president will pay official visits to Japan and the People's Republic of China next November. [passage omitted] He also confirmed that he will meet with eight foreign ministers of the Contadora group and its support group in New York on 22 September. He added that the reason for the meeting is to design a scheme of cooperation in the pacification of Central America as well as cooperation among Latin American countries.

#### Columnists: 'Expel' DEA

PA282019 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL 25 Aug 86 p 6

[Article by Sergio Iracheta: "We Found the DEA!"]

[Text] The most unconstitutional presence of the oft-mentioned DEA in our (we still believe, independent) country has soured approximately 80 million people.... Moreover, it has perplexed our secretary of foreign relations and our attorney general.

While we feel our stomach turning because of the big fuss over such a flagrant violation of our national sovereignty, the foreign secretariat coolly states that there is no agreement between Mexico and the United States allowing gringo police units to operate here, and the Attorney General's office said that the Mexican drug agents can handle their job without the help of any foreigners. At any rate, the DEA is definitely not authorized and, of course, not needed... but, it is here.

After having to endure the disgusting presence of vermin like "tortured" Victor Cortez, our authorities now tell us they found out that the DEA should not be operating this side of the Rio Bravo. The only thing lacking to reach the pinnacle of bureaucratic bungling would be if Tlatelocan [tlateloca] Bernardo Sepulveda Amor were to ask Sergio Garcia Ramirez if the DEA officials in question are his guests, and if Sergio were to answer that he tolerated them simply because he thought they were Bernardo's buddies.

The situation calls for a remedy, even if it is belated. It is urgent that we place the oft-mentioned DEA agents on the border and give them a good kick on their behinds so they land on the other side... where they never should have left. But, let us do it now.